

Michael F. Easley
Governor



State of North Carolina
Office of the Governor

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MAGAZINE RANKS TWO N.C. PROJECTS AMONG NORTH AMERICA'S 2006 TOP DEALS

RALEIGH – Gov. Mike Easley today announced that two of North Carolina's economic development wins are ranked among the 20 Top Deals in North America by *Site Selection* magazine. The two deals are the agreements that expanded financial giant Fidelity Investments presence in the state and another that brought vaccine maker Novartis to the Holly Springs.

"Although we work hard at recruiting jobs and offering attractive packages to business, the real attraction for NC is the overall business climate, educated workforce and low tax burden," said Easley. "These are the reasons we are seeing so many good companies anxious to call North Carolina home."

Site Selection is a leading national trade publication for executives who make site selection and facility planning decisions. In its May edition, the magazine placed the Fidelity deal among its Top 10 in North America last year. The Novartis agreement placed in the Top 20. The projects were listed alphabetically and not ranked numerically. *Site Selection* made its selections based on total capital investment, number of jobs created, regional economic impact and the role of incentives, creativity and competition for the project, among other factors.

Adam Bruns, the author of the cover story announcing the top deals, said all of the top deals possessed one common attribute: "The drive to get deals done, so people can move on and get business done."

Last summer, Fidelity Investments, one of the world's largest providers of financial services, announced plans to invest \$100 million to expand its presence in the Research Triangle Park and create 2,000 jobs in addition to the 1,000 that already existed. A few weeks earlier, Novartis announced that its vaccine and diagnostics subsidiary will build and operate an influenza vaccines manufacturing plant that will create 350 jobs and an investment of at least \$267.5 million in Holly Springs.

The articles can be found at <http://www.siteselection.com>.

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